

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; HONORABLE PATRICIA M. GLASS CHAMBERS
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Vanessa Baugh, Chairman
George Kruse, First Vice-Chairman
Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Second Vice-Chairman
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman
Misty Servia (via Zoom)
James A. Satcher III
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Dr. Scott L. Hopes, Acting County Administrator
William Clague, County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Chairman Baugh called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.


INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner Satcher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA


BC20210808DOC001


1. **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

 Dr. Scott Hopes, County Administrator, introduced the budget and announced the deadline for filing a petition with the Value Adjustment Board is September 10, 2010, and reminded the Board there is rigid timing for approving the budget and meeting guidelines of the Truth In Millage (TRIM) notice. The Board has the sole authority to change the budget. Should there be any changes, those need to be done through a motion directing the County Administrator to bring a Budget Amendment back in October. The motions this evening must be made exactly as on the agenda memos.

BC20210808DOC002

2. **BUDGET PRESENTATION**


 Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator, used a slide presentation to review the taxable values for the previous years, the orange in the graph represents new construction, the County wide millage rate was reduced by 0.2 mils, total tentative millage, County wide operating decrease of .05 in the library fund, the environmental lands is not levied in 2022, but will be in 2023, the differences between July 29, 2021 and today is a 0.2 decrease. The tentative budget is advertised on Friday, and the next public hearing is on September 14, 2021. The advertisement stated the environmental lands millage will be collected in 2023. She continued the slides to address resources by revenue (net budget \$923.4 million), uses by fund. Changes to the total budget include adding Port Manatee, special district budgets, prior year grant projects, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects (previously approved). Manatee County recognizes paramutual funds from the State, and those are given directly to Port Manatee. There has been an increase in State funding and to the infrastructure sales tax. She also reviewed credit lines and the CIP.


 Ms. Brewer explained the gas taxes decreased as well as cash, and the total budget is \$2,154,627,389, with a net budget of \$923,388,305. She continued to discuss the reserves in the cash balance and stabilization as well as changes in tax funds in the Stabilization. The

environmental lands are held in Parks for this year. She concluded with the highlights of the budget with an emphasis on Public Safety and infrastructure. The investment over the next three years for transportation is \$350.3 million, Parks \$80.3 million, and \$39.1 million for Public Safety.


Discussion ensued regarding the Children's Services tax has specific line items, but Ms. Brewer will review, and justification for a Deputy Director for Public Safety.


 Ms. Brewer stated the Deputy Director position was requested in the budget.


 Dr. Hopes explained there has been reorganization in Public Safety, and that the position has to do with growth in East County and jail medical now being under Public Safety.


 Discussion continued that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) stations are under Public Safety and historically they have been housed in fire departments, but there are rumors that there is friction between the two.

 Dr. Hopes met with a Fire Chief in North County, and they are discussing options.

 Discussion took place that EMS has been asked to leave the City of Bradenton station at G. T. Bray, the extra cost to build a separate station, how to better serve the residents, and it may be possible to renegotiate with the Chiefs.

 Dr. Hopes cautioned that there are federal funds being used to build EMS stations, and American Rescue Plan funds can be used for EMS stations, but not for fire stations.


 Ms. Brewer suggested bringing this back at a regular meeting to have a detailed discussion and allow further research time.

 Discussion continued that Public Safety is growing, growth out east and north of the River, this will be brought back to the Board, the Board must approve any buildings.


 William Clague, County Attorney, will look into County purchases of buildings for EMS.

 Discussion ensued regarding the fire department asking EMS to leave their facilities, fire districts are separate entities, Public Safety director has taken on more responsibility due to reorganization of the department, and Public Safety is the most important thing in the County.

Dr. Hopes explained both fire departments and EMS hire paramedics and this can also cause issues. A work session will take place.

 Discussion continued that this is the appropriate time to discuss issues, partner with the Sheriff for EMS substations, concern with \$500,000 to the Manatee Players in Tourist Development Council (TDC) funds, spending on an animal shelter, maintenance for the EMS facilities, avoid pulling funds from the TDC, keep EMS employees, fire districts are paying more, Manatee County is training paramedics and they are then leaving and going to other organizations to earn more, EMS is the only one who supplies Advanced Life Support (ALS), take personal feelings out of budget decisions, there is a need for a new animal shelter, make


the best decisions with the money in the budget, East Manatee does not have paramedics on their trucks, the budget is the main responsibility of the Commissioners, have a meeting with EMS, Deputy Director position in Public Safety is justified, the difference Manatee Players makes in the lives of the citizens, ARP funds are not recurring and cannot be used for staffing, the money for the animal shelter is budgeted, the roll of the Chairman, \$8 million was moved from Parks to the animal shelter, and \$4 million is being used to renovate Bishop Animal Shelter.

 Ms. Brewer confirmed the money to renovate Bishop came from the funding already allocated.

Discussion continued that until the County has Bishop, it is premature to discuss building a new shelter, move the shelter to another year, there are private shelters that are expanding in Manatee County, have a retail space for adoptions, and avoid conflict.


RECESS/RECONVENE: 7:23 p.m. – 7:33 p.m. All Commissioners present with Commissioner Servia attending via Zoom.


Discussion ensued to focus on long-term needs, needing more information on concerns, support the Administrator’s budget and make decisions on things that Commissioners have questions on, the funds were from the Infrastructure Sales tax for parks and other community needs, and the animal shelter was approved by a previous Board.


 Dr. Hopes stated tonight is to approve the tentative budget and the tentative millage. The final public hearing will be next week to adopt the final budget. Once that is done, staff will come back with budget amendments that are decided on next week.

Discussion ensued regarding not being in favor of a \$20 million library, but preferring the \$7 million original library promised, and plans for the library changed. BC20210808DOC003


3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

 Mike Meehan submitted a statement and expressed concern with past budgets, surplus funds, suggested a larger millage decrease, and a utility holiday.


 Al Miller addressed his TRIM notice and increases in his taxes from last year.


 Marsha Wikle expressed concern regarding the delay of the environmental land tax collection.


Lucas Levine commented on impact fees and supported the animal shelter.


 Merrie Lynn Parker, Suncoast Water Keepers, expressed concern regarding the delay of the environmental land tax.


Ken Piper spoke regarding reserves and statutory requirements for holding reserves, and questioned the roll back.


 Glen Gibellina questioned the need for veteran services, issues with surplus properties, and unpaid mortgages funded by the County.

 Chris Gilbert encouraged having a vision for Manatee County, sustainability, the purchase of conservation land, the drone program, and parks funding.


 Brice and Ally Focker encouraged the Board to move forward with the environmental land tax.


 Terry Bridge urged the Board to continue with the plan to build a new animal shelter.

 Dick Eckenrod requested the Board move forward with the collection of the environmental land tax.

 Lori Gurley commented on the need for an animal shelter.

Chairman Baugh read an email explaining the environmental land acquisition program is being funded with excess reserves for 2022. The County can also bond if a property becomes available.

 Dr. Hopes stated there is a work session on October 27 regarding the environmental land tax.

 Discussion ensued that the tax will be collected in 2023, but money will be in the budget.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Baugh closed public comment.


BC20210808DOC004


PUBLIC HEARINGS (Presentations upon request)


4. **TENTATIVE MILLAGE/BUDGET ADOPTION**

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Resolutions:

- Resolution B-22-001, for tentative millage rates for FY21/22
- Resolution B-22-022, adopting the Tentative Budget for FY21/22, which also included the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxing Unit and the Palm Air Municipal Services Tax Unit; and
- Resolution B-22-003, adopting the Tentative Budget for FY21/22 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts.


 A motion was made by Commissioner Whitmore seconded by Commissioner Satcher and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-22-001 for tentative millage rates for Fiscal Year 21-22.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Whitmore, seconded by Commissioner Kruse and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-22-002 which adopts the Tentative Budget for FY21-22, which also includes the Unincorporated Municipal Services Taxing Unit and the Palm Aire Municipal Services Tax Unit.


 A motion was made by Commissioner Whitmore, seconded by Commissioner Satcher and carried 7-0, to adopt Resolution B-22-003 which adopts the Tentative Budget for FY21-22 for all identified Manatee County Dependent Special Districts.

BC20210808DOC005

5. **AGGREGATE MILLAGE**

 Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator, announced the aggregate millage for FY21/22 rate for Manatee County Board of County Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 is 6.8322 mils and the change from the rolled back aggregate millage rate of 6.6288 for the operating millage is hereby determined to be +3.07 percent increase. BC20210808DOC006

6. **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

 Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator Announced the next Budget Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Manatee County Administration Building, in the Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, located at 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34205. BC20210808DOC007

(Depart Commission Whitmore)

Commissioner Kruse stated the environmental land tax will have funding, the ballot issue is being honored, and \$50 million will be collected. The new administration is looking at efficiencies to better run the County.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Satcher

- Decided he will not attempt to change the funding for the shelter

Commissioner Servia

- Spoke regarding the assessments going up due to the property values going up.
- Supported the Florida Kids for Clean Water, and noted the Board is working on a plan for the collection of the environmental land tax
- Requested data be presented regarding the items that were discussed this evening
- Noted the cost of materials and labor have increased regarding building the east County library

Jan Brewer, Deputy County Administrator, acknowledged Financial Management staff.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Baugh adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes Approved: November 16, 2021